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JOSEPH STACY MURDOCK First Bishop of Heber City #3

JOSEPH STACY MURDOCK

Joseph Stacy Murdock, a pioneer of 1847, was called with his family by President Brigham Young in 1856, as one of the colonizers of Carson Valley, Nevada. He was a pioneer in every sense of the word, always engaged in building up a new country, and making peace with the Indians. He had a magic influence over the Red Man, who would always listen to

While living in Carson Valley young Murdock used to haul freight to and from California. The long trip was made very dangerous by unfriendly Indians. As he was returning from one of these trips, he stopped at an Inn for the night. There he met a wealthy man who wished to get to California. He asked Murdock if he would take him back. Murdock told him he had no desire to turn back as he was then near his home. The stranger then replied, "Murdock, the Indians like you and they hate me. To go alone means my death, and these bags of gold dust will mean no more than sand unless you help me to get to California alive. Will you take me?" The young freighter could not resist the unfortunate man's pleadings, so took him to his destination. At the first watering place they noticed Indians skulking among the bushes. They were not molested; but the man, in his fear, kept very close to Murdock's side. On the return trip the Indians came up to the wagon when Murdock stopped at the watering place and asked him why he came with that strange man. They said, "We wait to kill him. Heap afraid kill Murdock. Next time come alone. We no like other man. Heap like Murdock."—Ida M. Kirkham.

365 Heart Throbs of the West

Vol 2



JOSEPH STACY MURDOCK Born June 26, 1822, Hamilton, N. Y. Came to Utah in September, 1847. Bishop in Wasatch Stake 1861, Indian War Veteran,

MURDOCK, JOSEPH STACY (son of Joseph Murdock and Sally Bonny Stacy of Hamilton, Madison county, N. Y.). Born June 26, 1822, Hamilton, N. Y. Came to Utah Sept.

Married Eunice Sweet June 26, 1842, at Albany, N. Y. (daughter of William and Hanna Sweet of Augusta, N. Y.) She was born Oct. 27, 1818. Family home, Salt Lake City. Married Eliza Clark June 2, 1852, Salt Lake City (daughter of Thomas and Carlotte Clark of Grantsville, pioneers 1850, Orson Pratt company). She was born May 17, 1830. Their children: Sarah Ann, m. Robert Lindsay; John Heber, m. Mary Gallagher; m. Emlly A. Bond; Joseph Thomas, m. Margaret Duke; Rocksina, m. Isaac Nathanici Brown; Charlotte, m. William Wright; George Calvin, m. Louisa Bagley; Ester Melissa, m. George Lindsay.

Married Jane Sharp June 11, 1854, Salt Lake City (daughter of Nathanlel and Cecilia Sharp of Clackmannan, Scotland, ploneers 1850). She was born April 13, 1836. Their children: David N. Murdock, m. Margaret S. Tood; Nymphas, died; Willard Milton, m. Christine Watson; William Henry, m. Melissa Baum; Cecilla, d. child; Stanley Gibson, m. Annetta Solon; Margaret Ellen, m. George F. Murray; Sarah Jane, m. Owen Hilton; Royal Stacy, m. Margaret Molton; m. Nellie Duncan, Family home Heber, Utah.

Married Elizabeth Hunter June 11, 1854, Salt Lake City (daughter of Robert and Agnes Hunter of Clackmannan,

1050

PIONEERS AND PROM

Scotland). She was born April 17, 1839. Their children: Johnathan R., m. Hulda Mary Elm; Alvy M., m. Josephine Nichol; Parley A., m. Lucy R. Hunley; James S., m. Dora Nichol; Alphonso B., m. Phoebe Lee; Annie E., m. Leonard Coleman; Nelson, m. Levina Averette; Clara, m. Alfred Richeus; Joseph G. and Erastus, both died young; Andrew,

m. Jane Horner. Family home Heber City, Utah.
Married Pernette (Piede Indian) June 26, 1859, Salt Lake City. She was born 1842. Their children: Benjamin, d. infant; Betsy, m. Thomas Blackley; Almy, d. June 1911; Edward T., m. Jenta Murdock; Franklin Judson, m. Stella McNaughton.

Missionary to Carson valley and to the Muddy in Nevada; bishop in Wasatch stake 1861. Member of legislature. Veteran Indian war. Died Feb. 4, 1899, Heber City. 105/



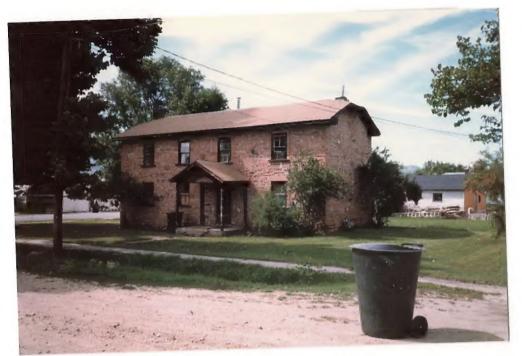
The children of Joseph Stacy Murdock, first bishop of Heber City. Most of them spent their lives in Wasatch County. Seated, left to right, Ann Coleman: Margaret Murray Ellen C. (Lottie) Wright, Jane Hylton. Back row, left to right, Parley A. Murdock Andrew Murdock, Alva Murdock, William Murdock, David N. Murdock, John Fl. Murdock and Frank Murdock.

ing program for leadership. Those of experienced leadership quickly trained their counselors and local brethren and then were often called to other areas, leaving Church administration in the hands of those they had trained.

Bishop Murdock chose men of the area as his counselors. They were John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband with John Hamilton as ward clerk. In addition to presiding over Heber Ward, these men also directed Church affairs throughout the valley.

Under Bishop Murdock's direction, presiding elders were appointed in the communities that by this time were large enough to meet separately. John Harvey was named at Center Creek in 1861 and Sidney Epperson was called as presiding elder in 1862 for the upper Snake Creek settlement. In 1864 David Van Wagonen was sustained as presiding elder for the lower Snake Creek area and John Watkins of Midway was later appointed to preside in Charleston and traveled there to hold meetings on Sunday.

The calling of Bishop Murdock in Heber Ward lasted until 1867 when he was called by President Young to move to Southern Utah and attempt to raise cotton there. During his six years in Wasatch County he gained the love and respect of the people for his kindness and gener-



115 East 300 No Heber, Utah

East 300 No

WHAT'S IN A NAME . . .



105

The home of Joseph and Jane Sharp Murdock, one of the earlier pioneer homes of Wasatch County. It is still standing and in good condition after 100 years.

197 E 300 No. Heber Utah



197 E 300 No. Heber Wah

WHAT'S IN A NAME . . .





The home of Joseph and Jane Sharp Murdock, one of the earlier pioneer homes of Wasatch County. It is still standing and in good condition after 100 years.



CHIEF TABBY



JOSEPH STACY MURDOCK First Bishop of Heber City

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

and then winding them into large balls. Several gunny-sacks of rag balls were required to make an ordinary size carpet. The carpet was woven in yard widths, and then fitted into the rooms and sewn together. The carpet was laid on a matting of fresh straw to make it soft for walking and more wearable. Fortunate indeed were those who could afford a "carpet stretcher" to help tighten the carpet as it was laid. The few in Heber who did have them were generous in sharing with all the community.

Food had been the most important crop for the early settlers, and as they established gardens and cultivated fields they also introduced stock raising into the valley. Because of the heavy snows that fell during the winters, there were numerous mountain streams and springs and an abundance of meadow-lands. Some wondered if the summer season would be long enough to make stock raising a sound economic possibility, but others reasoned that they could never know until they tried it, so several people brought small flocks of sheep and cattle into the valley in 1860.

President Brigham Young called John M. Murdoch, a shepherd from Scotland and a convert to the Church, to supervise a herd of sheep for the Church. However, by the time he arrived in Utah the sheep had been sold, so Mr. Murdoch came to Heber in 1860 and pioneered co-operative herding. Those who had sheep banded them together in the co-op herd and Mr. Murdoch took charge of them on range-lands in the summer and on southern ranches in the winter. The venture proved very successful, and families who before had been unable to care for sheep now found it possible to own a herd. As people developed their own individual herds however, the co-op idea soon dwindled. Some of the first sheep owners were the Jacob brothers, Lindsay brothers, Murdocks, Clydes, Clotworthy, Coleman, Austin, Smith, Jessop Thomas and the Fitzgeralds.

The sheep industry grew substantially over the years, and at one time there were more milk fed lambs shipped out of Heber than from any other point in the United States.

The cattle industry grew also, supplying at first the needs of those in the valley and eventually providing beef and other meat products for shipment to Denver and many eastern cities. Some of the major owners of cattle included A. M. Murdock, J. W. Clyde, John Carroll, William Averett and sons, John Witt and sons, the Carliles, Giles, Cummings and Abram Hatch and Sons.

DAIRYING

Dairying in the valley began with individuals who owned one or two cows and would sell their surplus milk or dairy products to neighbors. Later, creameries were established to collect the milk and distribute it on a large scale. Three such creameries have existed in Heber. One,

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